



**Eddie A. Perez**  
**Mayor**

## **CITY LEADERS MEET WITH UNION PRESIDENTS: OPEN DIALOGUE TO HELP REDUCE DEFICIT**

### **---NEWS STATEMENT---**

(February 24, 2009)--- Mayor Eddie A. Perez and other City leaders met today with Hartford's seven Union Presidents to lay the groundwork for discussions to help reduce the City's budget deficit.

Mayor Perez says, "The recession is deepening and cities like Hartford must find ways to pull together and find common ground to put a halt to this downturn. Hartford has already put policies in place--- including a spending freeze on all non-mission critical expenditures--- to reduce the City's projected deficit to \$8.8 million, but more work needs to be done. City leaders are reaching out to Union leaders for \$6-8 million in contractual concessions to reduce the financial impact on Hartford taxpayers for both FY 09-10 and FY 10-11. This is a stark financial reality. But by working together now, we can have minimal impact on jobs and services. However, if these concessions don't come through, then the future could be much more grim and uncertain with the potential loss of jobs and cuts in services. Luckily, Hartford is in better financial shape than many other Connecticut cities, but I believe an agreement is necessary and attainable by working as one team for the sake of our great city and its citizens."